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DRAFT: JQReber:cw

27 May 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: SA/PD/DCI

SUBJECT : Requirement for Photographic Coverage of
the CHICOM Coast

1. The Ad Hoc Requirements Committee (ARC) yesterday considered a Navy request for coverage of the CHICOM Coast. This is based upon an urgent CINCPAC requirement backed up by additional requirements of CINCPACFLT and Commander, Taiwan Defense Command as well as by the Chief of Naval Operations at Headquarters.

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3. The foregoing activity gives the Navy considerable concern when it views such activity against the generally accepted estimate of the CHICOM capability to attack and occupy the offshore islands with little or no warning. The apparent variety of vessels involved tends to indicate a more sophisticated approach to naval operations thus indicating preparation for unusual activity.

4. A CHICOM attack on the offshore islands would likely involve CHINAT military reaction from TAIWAN thereby enlarging the area of hostilities, perhaps then involving the SEVENTH FLEET.

5. It should be noted that whereas the Air Force representative on ARC was unable to report comparable needs on the part of PACAF and the Army representative on the part of USARPAC, CINCPAC has theatre command responsibility for the entire Pacific area. It should also be noted that this subject has been the concern of the National Indications Center and specifically the TAIWAN Straits Subcommittee of the IAC Watch Committee wherein the Navy representative has reflected the urgency of this matter in the Navy's view. As in the case of ARC this sense of urgency is not reflected by the Army and Air Force members. The CIA representative on the TAIWAN Subcommittee believes that the situation though not now critical should be closely watched.

7. Vertical CHALICE photography would be the most effective in meeting Navy needs. However, it is recognized that this would involve penetration of CHICOM territory in varying degrees. It is believed that oblique photography from a maximum of 20 miles out with the B configuration would probably provide the necessary information. In seeking an evaluation of the importance of the targets listed below incident to BINCPAC's requirements as compared with those areas hitherto recommended by the ARC (ARC-M-____) for peripheral oblique photography, it is concluded that these are of greater current indications interest than other targets for peripheral collection which at the moment have principally a strategic interest.

8. Recommendation. It is recommended that CHALICE collection by means of oblique photography be accomplished against the

following targets provided that

a. It may be considered within the Presidential permission already granted for peripheral photography (and, therefore, it not be required approaching the President on this specific subject) and

b. In the operational judgment of the Project such collection would not be considered to have a detrimental effect upon the Project's capabilities to collect against the highest priority targets, all of which are located within the USSR.